Government of Punjab and other State Governments have requested the Centre to provide incentives to farm-forestry while imposing countervailing duties on import of wood and wood products; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the 'State of Forest Report, 2003' (SFR,2003), published biennially by Forest Survey of India, the Forest and Tree Cover in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. is 6.33%, 6.63% and 9.06% of the geographic area of these States respectively, which is less than the National Average of Forest and Tree Cover (23.68%).

(b) to (d) Eucalyptus and Poplar are the two main species grown under farm-forestry in the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. A decline in the market price of Poplar was reported in the last five years. However, this trend is now reversed, and the price of Poplar has reached almost the same level as was prevailing five years ago. The price of Eucalyptus has been more or less stable. No formal proposal/request has been received in the Ministry from the States of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. A National Workshop was organised in Chandigarh by the Forest Department of Haryana to highlight the importance of agro-forestry. One of the recommendations of the Workshop relates to the review of the Import Policy by the Central Government to promote agro-forestry produce and its export. To safeguard the interest of tree-growers/farmers the Ministry has constituted a Core Group to study the Applied Rate and Import Duty on Forestry products.

Ticketing system at Bangalore City Railway Station

352. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to increase the number of reservation and other ticket issuing counters for various trains departing from Bangalore City railway station;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce IT enable ticketing system at the station; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI R. VELU): (a) For reserved ticketing, 15 counters are operational at Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centre at bangalore City railway station, from where tickets can be reserved in the trains starting from any station of Indian Railways including Bangalore City railway station. Reserved tickets can be procured from any PRS centre on Indian Railways for trains departing from Bangalore City railway station. For unreserved ticketing, there are 19 booking counters including 9 computerised Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) counters, 9 Self Printing Ticketing Machine (SPTMs) counters and one manual counter at Bangalore City railway station. These counters are generally adequate to cater to present level of traffic. However, during peak rush period, additional counters are also opened to handle extra rush.

(b) and (c) The facility of delivery of tickets booked on Internet through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited is already available in Bangalore. Moreover, the passengers from Bangalore can also avail themselves of Electronic Ticketing (E-tickets) facility which is now available in all Mail? Express trains.

Production and export of horticulture items

*353. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture in North East, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal for enhancement of assistance of components of TMNE at par with National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to help a large number of farmers, entrepreneurs and exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and whether any road map has been drawn to boost production and export of horticulture items in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Details of the assistance of the components of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal